



## **News for Immediate Release October 25, 2013**

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### **DWR Announces ‘Catch A Special Thrill’ for Kids Event at San Luis State Recreation Area**

**SACRAMENTO** – A special day of outdoor recreation and fishing for disabled and disadvantaged children will be held at O’Neill Forebay at San Luis State Recreation Area in Merced County on Saturday, October 26. The “Catch a Special Thrill” for kids event is sponsored by the Department of Water Resources (DWR), in partnership with the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), and the C.A.S.T. for Kids Foundation.

Participants and their families will start the day with a breakfast followed by fishing with top local anglers. Children participating in the C.A.S.T. event will be on the water in their assigned fishing boats from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Children will be from the Los Banos and Merced school districts.

While having fun, the young adventurers will learn about boating safety, fishing ethics, and California’s natural resources. When they return, an awards ceremony and lunch will follow, hosted by the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority. There will also be a flag ceremony provided by American Legion Post 166/VFW 2487.

Sponsors include the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, CAL FIRE, California Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW), Ranchwood Homes Corp., Soares Farms, Gerbi Enterprises and Rpac.

DWR, DPR, DBW, DFW and CAL FIRE have signed a Memorandum of Agreement to provide a framework to create a partnership between the C.A.S.T. Foundation and the State of California. The goal of this partnership is for the participating State agencies to support the C.A.S.T. program and expand opportunities for disabled and disadvantaged youth to use and enjoy public land and waterways through State Water Project recreation facilities.